

U. S. WILL ASK BRITAIN TO PASS RED CROSS AID

Will Protest Against Ban
on Hospital Supplies
for Germany.

SPURRED TO ACT
BY TAFT LETTER

Ex-President Says Red Cross
Considers Britain's Course
Treaty Violation.

Washington, May 11.—The American government is preparing to protest to Great Britain against its policy of refusing to allow the shipment of hospital supplies by the American Red Cross to Germany and her allies. Secretary Lansing received a letter today from ex-President Taft, chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross, urging such action, and the matter will be taken up with the British government soon.

Mr. Taft's letter revealed for the first time that Great Britain formally had declined to issue permits for shipments of supplies to the Central Powers, except when intended for American hospital units. This exception, Mr. Taft wrote, was worthless because lack of funds had prevented the Red Cross from maintaining units in the belligerent countries since last October.

The Red Cross considers the attitude of the British government in violation of the Geneva Convention, to which the United States and all of the present belligerents are signatories, and holds that the American government has the right to insist on observance of the treaty. Mr. Taft expressed the hope that the British position was based on an erroneous belief that the Central Powers had failed to agree to a reciprocal course in the treatment of articles for the sick and wounded.

Blocked by Great Britain.

"Since the beginning of the present war," the letter said, "the American Red Cross has invited contributions of money and supplies with which to aid the wounded and suffering of all the belligerents. We have shipped to the Red Cross societies of each belligerent hospital supplies contributed to us for that purpose.

"We have found no difficulty in sending such articles to the Entente Allies. We have had to obtain permits from Great Britain for the shipments to the Red Cross of the Central Powers. Until September, 1915, there was substantially no delay in the granting of these permits by Great Britain. Since that time we have had much difficulty in securing them, and the supplies donated to the Central Powers have accumulated in our warehouse in Brooklyn. A permit was granted for only one shipment since that time—in January of this year.

"Through your department we are now in receipt of a communication from the British government announcing that it does not intend to permit any further shipment, unless it is a shipment to our own hospital units in a territory of the Central Powers. This exception amounts to no concession, for the reason that, as the British government was advised in August last, after the first of October, for lack of funds, we were able to maintain no hospital units in any of the belligerent countries.

"The authorities of the American Red Cross believe that under the Geneva Convention, to which the United States and all the belligerent powers are signatories, the United States has the treaty right to insist that articles serving exclusively to aid the sick and wounded in the form of hospital supplies, shipped by the American Red Cross to the Red Cross of the Central Powers, shall not be declared contraband, but shall be allowed safe conduct to their destination.

Based on Misconception.

"The reasons for this view of the obligation of Great Britain under the Geneva Convention of 1864 were set forth in a communication by the undersigned to his excellency, the British Ambassador, under date of December 30, 1915, and a copy of this was transmitted to your department. We are now in receipt of a communication from your department, including a dispatch from the British government in which it definitely withdraws its consent for the shipment of hospital supplies by the American Red Cross, and thus in effect announces its purpose to treat them as a contraband of war.

"The reason as given by the British government for this conclusion in the dispatch of March 22 is that while it had consented to exempt from treatment as contraband of war articles serving exclusively to aid the sick and wounded, and coming within the description contained in Article 29 of the Declaration of London, and had expressed that willingness to the Spanish Ambassador, with a view to a communication to the Central Powers, nine months had passed since that communication, and no definite communication had been received from the German, Austrian or Turkish government on the subject of these lists.

"In view of the fact that the German government did consent to a reciprocal course on October 15, 1915, in respect to the Central Powers, was communicated to the British Foreign Office, as we are advised by the British Ambassador at Washington, we venture to hope that the conclusion of the British government was based on a misconception, and that when the matter is called to its attention a change in this policy may be had."

U. S. ARSENAL PAY RAISED

Secretary Baker, Favoring Government
as Employer, Announces Increase.

Washington, May 11.—Secretary Baker announced today that wage increases would be granted to workmen in the government arsenal at Rock Island, Ill. He said the increases would not be based on the wage scale paid similar workmen in Chicago, where the living standard differed, but would be based on the scales of similar private plants at Rock Island and Moline, Ill., and Davenport, Ia.

The increases were recommended by the Department of Labor as a compromise between proposals of the workmen and the arsenal management. General Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, will compute the increases declared that the government should be a "model" employer, by paying slightly above private wage scales and offering better working conditions.

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First photograph of west side of Sackville Street as it appeared after the Sinn Fein revolt had been crushed.

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ASQUITH GOES
TO IRISH CAPITAL

Continued from page 1

execution had been held back from the Premier and might be brought to light later.

Mr. Dillon complained that Premier Asquith was kept in the dark by the military authorities as to what was going on. He did not hold General Maxwell, the British commander, and the other military authorities responsible for the execution of Mr. Sheehy Skeffington, but pointed out that Mr. Skeffington was shot on April 26 and the military authorities did not hear of it until May 1.

Horrible Rumors Current.

"How could any one blame the people of Dublin for believing dozens of others have been shot secretly in barracks?" he asked. "Horrible rumors are current in Dublin, and they are embittering the population."

Out of the whole of Ireland, Mr. Dillon continued, there were only four or five spots where there was no insurrection, yet the whole country was under martial law. The Irish people, he declared, would refuse to accept the well-known high character of General Maxwell as the sole guarantee of their liberties.

"If Ireland were governed by men out of England," continued Mr. Dillon, "they could not pursue a more insane policy. You are letting loose a river of blood between two races, which, after three hundred years of hatred, we had nearly succeeded in bringing together. You are washing out our whole life-work in a sea of blood."

This and other telling points in his speech were received with loud cheers from the Nationalist benches.

Wants Executions Stopped.

After declaring that the primary object of his amendment was to put an absolute and final stop to the executions, Mr. Dillon proceeded:

"In my opinion, the present government of Ireland is largely in the hands of the Dublin Clubs. What is the use of talking about the executive authorities acted in close consultation with the civil executive officers of the Irish government? Who are these officers? There are none. They have all disappeared. There is no government in Ireland except Maxwell and the Dublin Clubs. Everybody in Dublin knows that."

"Before the civil officers took flight the military officers treated them with undisguised contempt, and since the day martial law was proclaimed, the civil government has been absolutely non-existent. The men of the 'independence' party are going about the streets of Dublin to-day openly glorifying in the rebellion. They claim that they brought martial law and real government into the country. That is what makes the situation so terrible."

Champion of Small Nations.

"If that programme is to be enforced in Ireland you had better get ready to send thousands of men to garrison the country. And then what sort of appearance will you make as the champions of small nationalities?"

The loud cheers were renewed, and Mr. Dillon continued: "There was little wonder, he said, that Dublin was seething with rumors. But for the action of John MacNeill, who broke the back of the rebellion, the military would have been fighting still."

Mr. Dillon charged that men had been threatened with death unless they gave evidence against comrades. In one case a boy of fifteen was ordered to inform on his comrades. "No," he was told, "he must hear the click of rifles. Afterward the handgears were taken from his eyes and he was sent home. After describing this Mr. Dillon said: 'I call that damnable and intolerable.'"

Proud of Sinn Féiners.

Relating further incidents, Mr. Dillon continued: "Another man said, 'Shoot me, for I have killed three of your soldiers.' That may horrify some of the honest members here, but I am proud of these men."

This remark met with loud cries of "Shame!" but the speaker went on: "I am proud of their courage, and if the English people had not been so dense they could have had these people fighting for them."

Mr. Dillon contrasted the treatment of Ireland and South Africa. It was recognized, he said, that the men were the victims of misdirected enthusiasm. What was wanted was not a military bill for Ireland, but a means to find a way to the hearts of the Irish people. The government would then obtain the best troops in the world.

Among the personal incidents Mr. Dillon related was one concerning his son. He said:

"Yesterday my son, seventeen and a half years of age, applied for a military pass to go to Kingstown. He was asked his name and college and was grossly insulted by a British officer, who refused the pass."

Son Asked to Enlist.

"This son had asked permission on his seventeenth birthday to join the British army. I gave him leave to enlist, but the insurgents had made a mistake. He will never join it now, and there are tens of thousands of others in similar cases."

"After all, it is our country, although you look at it as a sort of back garden which you can trample into dust without consideration."

There was a lively incident at the conclusion of Mr. Dillon's speech. On saying that the insurgents had made a good, clean fight, however misguided, he was interrupted by a member, whereupon he retorted: "It would be a good thing if your soldiers were able to put up as good a fight—3,000 against 20,000 with machine guns and artillery."

Premier Asquith opened in grave tones in reply to Mr. Dillon. He expressed the deep regret that in most parts of his speech Mr. Dillon had forgotten some of the elementary rules of justice. The Premier appealed to the House to remember the infinite mischief done at a moment when he was still hopeful that events might lead to something like a greater ap-

proximation of sympathy among all classes of Irishmen.

Two Sides to Question.

When Mr. Dillon spoke of the rebellion having been crushed, he said, must be paid to the actual facts. It was impossible, he said, to measure life for life in such circumstances.

"Let not our sympathy be entirely captured by the unfortunate, misguided victims of this unhappy and criminal act," added the Premier, who said that some sense of proportion must be preserved, as no fair man could blind himself to the "terrible, wanton, inexcusable and unprovoked injury," which had been inflicted on the military and civilian population.

The Premier promised that further courts martial for murder would be conducted publicly.

The persons executed, he said, could be divided into three categories: The first composed of those who signed the proclamation of the provisional government and were the leaders of the actual rebellion in Dublin, and of whom four or seven had suffered the extreme penalty; the second, those who were in command of the rebels, actually shooting down troops and police, of whom there were seven; the third, men like Kent, who had been guilty of murder.

Sentences Not Carried Out.

There were two other persons, Mr. Asquith said, under sentences of death. Both of them had signed the proclamation and had taken an active part—one of them a most active part—in the insurrection in Dublin.

The Premier did not see his way to interfere with the discretion of Major General Maxwell, the commander of the troops in Ireland, and said that the extreme penalty should not be inflicted. He was unable to reconcile it with his conscience or his judgment that differential or preferential treatment should be accorded in the case of men of equal guilt.

Proceeding to refer to the rank and file of the rebels as "the dupes," he said they had been misled almost unconsciously. The government desired to see if any one would attend to it. He added, and that every opportunity should be given them in the future to redeem their error.

The Premier specifically expressed his great confidence in General Maxwell, adding that under the very trying conditions and in the exercise of very delicate and difficult jurisdiction he had shown discretion and humanity.

Tribute to Maxwell.

"I am personally perfectly satisfied with the manner in which he has discharged his duties," the Premier declared.

Mr. Asquith said that owing to resignations the civil executive of Ireland had almost ceased to exist, and it was very desirable that provision should be made at the earliest possible moment for the future.

"It is of the utmost importance," said the Premier, that after these disturbing events we should all put prepossessions and recognize that the vast mass of the Irish people have shown themselves loyal to the crown, determined to maintain the law and resolute to prosecute the war.

"We ought to seize the opportunity of developing these potential sentiments of unity, good feeling and cooperation, and endeavor, putting aside all past controversies of the past, to unite Ireland herself and Ireland as a constituent of the United Kingdom and the empire in the common task which absorbs all our common energies."

The chief cause of the attack on the government was the revelation that another execution had occurred—very grave, that was named Kent—which was the first military execution outside of Dublin.

Murder To Be Punished.

Upon the resumption of debate in the House of Lords, Lord Lansdowne announced that in all cases where life had been taken in circumstances constituting murder the course of the law would not be interfered with. He intimated that the disarmament of all Ireland will be undertaken. This will mean the disarmament of the Ulster and Nationalist volunteers, and whether that can be done depends on Sir Edward Carson and John Redmond more than on any other individuals.

Martial law should not be indefinitely prolonged, Lord Lansdowne, will not be abrogated until it is perfectly safe to do so.

The government, he announced, had decided that members of the Sinn Fein organization should no longer be employed in any government department. Many of the newspapers, particularly

the Liberal organs, call upon the Irish factions to seize the present opportunity for settling their long standing differences.

In Dublin since the insurrection there has been an increase in the rate of recruiting there.

Even while the controversy over the causes and manner of handling the insurrection is still in progress efforts are being made to reach a compromise on the Home rule question. Those who most desire this are urging that Lord Hardinge, after he has concluded his inquiry into the disturbances, shall be appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. There are rumors in Parliamentary circles that negotiations of some kind are being arranged and that Sir Edward Carson and John Redmond, the leaders of the two parties, are concerned with them.

Walcott Sees Speedy Relief.

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"While in Belgium," he said, "I was requested by the German authorities to go to Germany. This I did, with the result that I obtained an agreement from the German government by which it was arranged for the banks in Berlin to pay 15,000,000 marks per month for foodstuffs for the relief of the Poles. Of course, this agreement was contingent upon the acceptance of the plan by the British."

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The acceptance carries certain rather difficult stipulations for the Central Powers, namely the relief must be applied to that portion of Poland in Austrian occupation and not confined, as Germany desires, to that part occupied by Germany. It is stipulated that the food is to be shipped from the United States in German ships under a neutral flag, and further that Germany and Austria agree as part of the scheme to properly care for the populations of Serbia, Albania and Montenegro.

The Foreign Office expresses the hope that the Central Powers will promptly accept the conditions, so as to hasten the putting of the scheme into operation. Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, will go to Brussels to-morrow in an effort to facilitate the negotiations.

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